



**Thematic planning sheet for:** *August 23, 2014*

**Central Book or Theme:** *Rain*

**Activities for Centers:**

Sensory table: water with watering cans, cups, turkey basters and large eye droppers so children can make it "rain"

Easel: blue, white and gray paint so children can paint their own rainstorm

Reading nook: weather themed books including *What Can You Do in the Rain?* by Anna Grossnickle Hines and *The Falling Raindrop* by Neil Johnson

Dress up area: rubber boots, raincoats and rain hats

Activity table: a tambourine, an egg shaker, wooden sticks and bells—ask the children "Which one sounds like rain?"

**Art:** *Make a rainmaker (directions on back)*

**Music and Movement:** *Shake your rainmaker*

**Story circle:** *Are You Ready to Play Outside* by Mo Willems

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# Rainmaker Instructions



## **Materials Needed:**

An empty toilet paper or paper towel tube  
2 4 inch squares of wax or parchment paper  
A strip of cardstock 1.25 x 6 inches (*for toilet paper tube*) 12 inches (*for paper towel tube*)  
1 tablespoon of rice (*toilet paper tube*) or 2 tablespoons of rice (*paper towel tube*)  
Masking tape  
Clear tape  
1 4x6 inch rectangle of construction paper (*6.25x11 for paper towel tube*)  
Markers or crayons

## **Assembly:**

1. Wrap wax paper square around one end of tube and secure with tape. (*You can use a hair tie or rubber band at the top to hold wax paper in place while you tape it.*)
2. Make 1.5 inch accordion-like bends in your cardstock strip and insert into tube.
3. Add rice to tube.
4. Wrap wax paper square around remaining tube end and secure with tape.
5. Draw a rain storm or other decoration on your construction paper sheet. (*This can also be decorated with stickers or stamps.*)
6. Wrap your decoration sheet around the tube and secure with clear tape.

## **Notes for teachers:**

1. To save time, secure wax paper to one side of each tube in advance.
2. There are many variations of this online—some use foil on the inside for better rain sounds and beans instead of rice. Because foil can have sharp edges and some beans can be a choking hazard, these are not recommended when working with 2 year olds.
3. If using paints or stamps, considering having the children decorate the day before to allow for drying time.